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Vascular Medicine

ACCREDITATION IS PERCEIVED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF VASCULAR TESTING FACILITIES: RESULTS OF AN INTERSOCIETAL ACCREDITATION COMMISSION (IAC) SURVEY

Poster Contributions

Hall C

Sunday, March 30, 2014, 3:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Session Title: Vascular Medicine: A Potpourri

Abstract Category: 32. Vascular Medicine: Non Coronary Arterial Disease

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Background: Accreditation for noninvasive vascular testing facilities has been available since 1991. We sought to determine the perceived value of accreditation among staff of IAC (ICAVL) accredited vascular laboratories.

Methods: Multi-item electronic survey was sent to medical and technical staff and administrative contacts within the IAC database. Respondents were asked to rate statements about the impact of accreditation on their facility. Data for vascular laboratories are presented.

Results: 882 responded from 7289 vascular surveys sent (12.1%). Respondents were primarily responsible for the facility's accreditation application (75%), with the majority being technologists (82%), followed by physicians (11%). Most respondents were from hospital-based facilities (51.1%) and from facilities accredited for >3 years (79.6%). 94.3% of respondents felt that maintaining accreditation of their facility was important (3.5% neutral, 2.2% not important). The perceived impact of accreditation on specific aspects of vascular laboratory quality is shown in the table. The greatest perceived benefits were standardization of study acquisition and reporting, adherence to guidelines and report completeness.

Conclusions: The majority of respondents from IAC accredited vascular testing facilities favorably viewed accreditation. By enhancing the quality of vascular laboratory studies and reports, accreditation may standardize data used for medical decision-making and improve patient care.

Table 1. Perceived Impact of Accreditation on Vascular Testing Facilities

	Agree†	Neutral	Disagree^	N/A
Image Quality				
Improved standardization of study acquisition	85.3%	6.7%	7.5%	0.5%
Increased adherence to published guidelines	84.5%	9.1%	6.0%	0.3%
Helped identify facility imaging deficiencies	75.6%	15.2%	8.8%	0.5%
Increased staff knowledge of imaging procedures	75.2%	12.0%	12.4%	0.5%
Improved image quality	69.6%	16.8%	13.5%	0.1%
Aided in correction of facility imaging deficiencies	68.9%	18.9%	11.5%	0.7%
Decreased the percentage of suboptimal studies	47.0%	25.3%	27.4%	0.3%
Reporting				
Improved standardization of study reporting	86.2%	7.3%	6.5%	0.1%
Improved report completeness	81.2%	9.9%	8.2%	0.3%
Improved report timeliness	71.9%	13.3%	13.5%	1.3%
Performance				
Improved patient safety	54.4%	27.3%	17.1%	1.3%
Improved facility efficiency	49.0%	24.8%	25.8%	0.5%
Decreased inappropriate studies	42.0%	28.5%	27.0%	0.5%
Facility Marketing				
Distinguished facility as quality provider in region and/or helped with marketing of imaging service	69.0%	17.9%	11.8%	1.3%
Enhanced patient satisfaction	39.4%	36.6%	22.7%	1.3%
†Responses strongly agree and agree combined				
^Responses strongly disagree and disagree combined				